

Stan' for Uncle Sam

by DAVID APPLEFIELD
and STEVE POSS

President Carter has nominated former Amherst student Admiral Stansfield Turner to be Director of Central Intelligence. If confirmed by the Senate, Turner, 53 years old, will head the CIA and coordinate intelligence information for the president.

Now Commander of NATO forces in southern Europe, Turner was a student at Amherst from 1941-43 before leaving for the U.S. Naval Academy, where he received his B.S. in 1946. He later was named a Rhodes Scholar and studied philosophy, economics, and politics at Oxford University.

During his rise from ensign in 1946 to Admiral in 1973, Turner was awarded the Bronze Star and Legion of Merit. He commanded the U.S. Second Fleet before promotion to his present NATO position. Along the way he served as President of the Naval War College, the youngest officer ever to hold that position, and as a defense systems analyst for the navy. His tenure at the War College was marked by innovations such as invitations to civilian outsiders to deliver humanities lectures.

Carter's Second Choice

Carter's original selection for the top intelligence post was former Kennedy aide Theodore Sorensen. After Sorensen withdrew under fire for his liberal background, Carter had to find another nominee. The White House press office told the STUDENT that Carter had known Turner as a classmate at the naval academy, had long been considering him for some top post in the administration, and "saw the CIA as the best place for him."

Turner must now be recommended by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, which has scheduled hearings for Feb. 22, and then be confirmed by the full Senate. A staff spokesperson for the Select Committee told the STUDENT that while he expected "a thorough exchange on a number of questions" he did not "see any difficulties" with the nomination.

He predicted that the hearings will last one day and possibly two. An aide to a Democratic Senator on the committee thought that the hearing process might be significantly longer, telling the STUDENT that "Turner will have to be prepared to answer the tough questions, and for long hearings. But except for the usual idiot Republican questions, we see no problems. If Turner can survive a week in the hot seat, he'll make it."

As part of a background security check, FBI agents have visited Amherst to check Turner's records. When a staff member at the White House was asked by the STUDENT whether it was normal procedure for the FBI to investigate a 53 year old man's undergraduate life, she replied: "They want to know everything, when I was cleared for this job they wanted to know which house I lived in in 1937."

The Amherst Years

Stan Turner arrived at Amherst College in the Fall of 1941 from his hometown of Highland Park, Illinois. Like many of his fellow students, his education was interrupted by the War and he did not complete his four years at Amherst.

Active in the Amherst Chapter of the Naval Reserve, Turner left Amherst after his sophomore year to enroll in the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis. The Navy was his home for the next 33 years.

Although Turner never did return to Amherst as a student, he was very much a part of Amherst life during his two year stay. In his first year, living in North Dormitory Stansfield was the second string quarterback.



Stansfield Turner, center, with some Amherst buddies in 1944. "Stan was no square but he was no party boy either... you would never find Stan under the bar."

THE AMHERST STUDENT

"One thing I remember about Stan that I thought was great, he kept track of everybody, where everyone was and what they were doing."



back on the freshman football team, which went unscored upon until the final game when Williams College won a 7-0 victory, holding the Little Three Championship to a 3-way tie.

The class of '45 was also the first freshman class to eat in the newly-erected Valentine Hall.

Professor G. Armour Craig, the only member of the 1941 faculty that is still teaching at Amherst, remembers Turner as a "serious student." Craig pointed out that the Amherst curriculum of 1941 was a far cry from the present requirement-free system.

Turner was required to take English 1 and 2, a year-long course in Composition which Robert Frost termed "unification of knowledge by the polite essay." Turner also took Laurence Packard's History 1, a lecture course in Diplomatic History. A foreign language, a science (probably calculus), and public speaking completed his schedule.

Summer of '43

Stan attended Amherst's summer semester and rushed Chi Psi fraternity in the Fall of 1942. He also played Varsity football that year, moving from second string quarterback to second string center. He was once credited in the STUDENT as scoring a touchdown in the Trinky game; however, this was discovered to be a misprint.

Howard Brown, now with Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co. in Michigan, was Stan's roommate in Chi Psi. "Stan was always chunky; not a superb athlete but he gave it all he got," Brown commented.

Also that year, Turner was elected president of Sphinx, a service organization which sponsored Amherst social events such as the gala "Climax Weekend."

Judged as the member of his sophomore class who ranked highest in character, class leadership, scholarship, and athletic ability, Stan was awarded the \$200 Samuel Walley Brown Scholarship.

This was a time when the sophomore class could write of themselves, "We became wise about blind dates at Mount Holyoke. We steeped ourselves in all sorts of vices in order to become real honest-to-goodness college men. We made our bids for fame and 'college contacts.' We moistened our brows with anxious sweat in many competitions. We carried the ball for the varsity." (1942 Otto Yearbook)

Sturdy Stan

Stan was a member of the Interfraternity Council as well as Vice President and Rush Chairman of Chi Psi. "Sturdy Stan," as he was known by his fraternity brothers, left impressions on many of them that remain undimmed after 35 years.

John Owens, a Detroit attorney, remembers cycling over the Notch to the pond with Turner in the summer. He recalls Turner as "easy to get along with... a good straight thinker, not too emotional. None of us were real partyers with the war hanging over us, but he'd drink a beer now and then. He was one of the guys."

Owens has one recollection that is particularly interesting in the light of Turner's nomination as the country's top sleuth: "one thing I remember about Stan that I thought was great, he kept track of everybody, where everyone was and what they were doing."

Amherst College Comptroller George May '46 terms him "a natural leader, tough but humane. All Chi Psi's would write to him during the war and he would assemble all the information and write a newsletter and send it out to all the Chi Psi alumni around the world from the three classes." Turner once sent May tickets to the Army-Navy game.

Howard Brown, Stan's roommate in the Lions' Den

"The fire extinguisher outside Venusberg was upset and emptied Sunday evening when Brothers Owen and Turner were trying to impersonate Peeping Toms on the inmates of Venusberg and their dates."

In Chi Psi, saw Turner as "far above average, but you'd never call him brilliant either. I never knew a finer man."

When the STUDENT informed Brown of Turner's nomination, he exclaimed, "My God, he's head of the CIA? That's the best appointment I've heard yet... an unbelievable person!"

Other classmates describe Turner as "a well-liked guy," "very astute... capable," "a man of the finest integrity... superb," "well-liked, a real BMOG."

Gerald Mager of the Registrars Office notes that Turner had a good academic standing. "Certainly, the college would have been happy to welcome him back, but he was not unique in not returning to Amherst after the war."

No Square

Most interesting are the recollections of Francis F. Faulkner '44, now a Keene, New Hampshire attorney. "Stan was no square but he was no party boy either... You would never find Stan under the bar. He got things done. You don't get to be an admiral from nothing."

As Secretary of Chi Psi, Faulkner inscribed the society's minutes in the fraternity ledger. Turner demonstrated his propensity for intelligence gathering at an early age as Faulkner's October 12, 1942 ledger entry reveals: "Conditions of the Lodge: the fire extinguisher outside Venusberg was upset and emptied Sunday evening when Brothers Owens and Turner were trying to impersonate Peeping Toms on the inmates of Venusberg and their dates."

Venusberg, meaning den of love, was the name of a three-man suite in Chi Psi.

The Admiral Returns

Stansfield Turner returned to Amherst College during the Vietnam War to discuss U.S. policy. Observers recall that he established a "healthy rapport" with dissenting students.

Turner finally did receive a degree from Amherst College, an honorary Doctor of Civil Laws, awarded at the 1976 Commencement.

As Turner was a part of Amherst, Amherst remains a part of Turner. In a 1973 interview with a Providence newspaper, Turner attributed his success to his parents and "to the education they offered me—first at Amherst and later at Oxford, where in the liberal arts... there was an emphasis on thinking—and reasoning processes."

Reached in the temporary Washington offices set up for the CIA designate, Turner told the STUDENT of his gratitude for his honorary degree, of the "great value" of his Amherst education, and of his "fond memories of times at Amherst."